

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application and acknowledge the indication that claims 10 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

By the present Amendment:

- Claims 1-9 and 15 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.
- Claim 10 is rewritten in independent form and amended to include the subject matter of claims 1, 8, and 9.
- Claim 11 is rewritten in independent form and amended to include the subject matter of claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 15.
- Claim 12 includes the subject matter of claims 9 and 12.
- Finally, claims 18 and 19 correspond to claim 13, but depend from claims 11 and 12, respectively.
- Claims 20 and 21 correspond to claim 14, but depend from claims 11 and 12, respectively.
- Claims 22 and 23 correspond to claim 16, but depend from claims 11 and 12, respectively.
- Claims 24 and 25 correspond to claim 17, but depend from claims 11 and 12, respectively.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1-8 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. 2002/0175073), as well as the rejection of claims 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura in view of Iwaki et al. (JP 08-283084) and the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection of claims 1-7 as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. 6,713,034 and claims 8 and 13-17 as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. 7,297,445.

As noted, claims 1-9 and 15 are cancelled; the remaining claims are either allowable or depend from an allowable claim and,

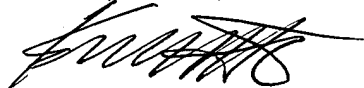
accordingly, are also allowable. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Finally, enclosed is an English language abstract for JP 63-254669A, which also corresponds to JP 5-44779 B2, together with another copy of the relevant Form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the Form PTO-1449 to confirm consideration of the listed references and their entry into the record.

To the extent necessary during prosecution, Applicants hereby request any required extension of time not otherwise requested and hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any required extension not otherwise paid, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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